

ENDOCRINE AND METABOLIC SIGNALS REGULATING AUTONOMIC  
FUNCTION AND BEHAVIOR: OLD PEPTIDES WITH NEW FUNCTIONS.

It is now well accepted that many peptides and proteins long recognized as important endocrine factors have found new roles as neurotransmitters and neuromodulators. This panel will focus on the involvement of peptides in visceral afferent pathways and how these peptides act to modulate autonomic function and ingestive behavior. We will discuss new roles for traditional peptide hormones and potential means by which these peptides interact with the nervous system. Dr. Gaylen Edwards will give an overview of of circulating peptides and the importance of peptidergic control of autonomic function and behavior with particular reference to the area postrema. Dr. Robert Ritter will discuss the role of cholecystokinin in the gastrointestinal system with emphasis on the control of ingestive behavior. Dr. Martin Muntzel will discuss the role of central and peripheral insulin in the modulation of sympathetic nervous system function focusing on the potential importance for cardiovascular function and hypertension. Dr. Sue Ritter will discuss metabolic signals that act to modulate sympathetic function and the potential involvement of galanin as a neurotransmitter in the afferent nerves mediating this phenomenon.